



# St Paul's Church



## New Wine Shepton Mallet 2025

This was the first time my grandson aged 6 attended. He doesn't go to church where he lives in Belfast and had the opportunity of attending a kids club twice daily for 5 days. More than enough church to last a little one a lifetime! After I picked him up on day two, he said, "Grandma, I'm I coming back here tomorrow?" "Actually, you'll be coming back this evening if you want to". Fearing he was going to say he didn't want to: He jumped for joy, "It's the best ever" and He proceeded to sing the Ground Breakers Song!

Saturday evening, I was beginning to feel down. Each evening, I had to collect my grandson at 8:30pm although the evening service was still going on. I was missing out on hearing the final part of the message and not being there for the prayer response. I began to think of next year and not bringing my grandson so I could just be fed.

Acts 20.35 says, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: *'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*"

When we read this verse, we often think about money. But in Jesus' Upside-Down Kingdom, it means so much more. Seeing the world as a place where I add value, rather than take from it. I went to New Wine with the attitude of "What can I get out of this," rather than, "What can I give to this,".

As a Christian grandparent, I had the opportunity to mentor, encourage, listen to and love my grandson. As a grandparent I had the opportunity to give. That changed my perspective and took me back to being a parent and bundling five children into the car or pram to go to church. Often, I never heard the message, I felt I was half fed, I questioned if it was really worth going each week.

I wonder what situations we have found ourselves in where we have wanted to receive rather than give. Jesus spent most of His ministry helping and assisting others, but if we're being honest—and Jesus was always honest, too—most of us have a tendency to be selfish with God's gifts, or ignore opportunities to serve the weak or needy in our everyday lives.

All five of our children are either attending church most weeks or serving in Christian outreaches. It is more blessed to give than to receive.

As Paul was speaking to the leaders at the church in Ephesus in Acts 20:35, he made sure to remind them that his life has not been about himself, but about helping others. Paul says that everything he has done has been about helping those who are weak and in need. Paul didn't say these things to boast about himself; he said them to point back to Jesus as the truest example of love.

While the Christian faith is certainly about loving God, it is also about loving others as well. It is about using our new life in Christ to bring positive change to the lives of others—the same positive change Christ brought about in us.

Jesus said that when we use our life to help others, we end up even more blessed. It is always more blessed to give to others than to receive for ourselves.

Take some time to consider the way your own life has been blessed by others. Then, write down a few ways that you can begin to help others who are in need. What practical ways can you bless those in your family, community, work, or educational establishment? Begin to build a habit of being a blessing to others.

## **SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY 17 AUGUST – Trinity 9**

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 24 AUGUST – Trinity 10**

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Canon Liz Walker

### **SUNDAY 31 AUGUST – Trinity 11**

10.30 am – Celtic Service – Jenny Clifton

### **SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 12**

10.30 am – Café Church – Café Church Team

### **SUNDAY 14 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 13**

10.30 am – All-Age Communion with Baptism – Rev Claude

### **SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 14**

9.15 am for 9.30 am – Bubble Church

10.30 am – Morning Worship – Gwyn

### **SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER – Trinity 15**

10.30 am – Holy Communion – Robin Williamson

## **EVENTS**

### **SATURDAY 16 AUGUST @ 2.30 pm**

Summer Afternoon Tea

### **THURSDAY 21 AUGUST @ 2.30 pm**

Fellowship: Stroke Awareness – Julie Camburn

### **FRIDAY 29 AUGUST @ 7 pm**

Crafts

### **FRIDAY 5 SEPTEMBER @ 9.30 am**

Baby & Toddler Group

### **MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER @ 7 pm**

Prayer Meeting – St Paul's

## **FOOD BANK**

The next deliver will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August.

## **PRAYER RESOURCE**

**week beginning Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> August 2025**

*'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'* (Romans 12: 12)

We give thanks for:

- Summer holidays and outings, for opportunities to see new places, do new things and the chance to renew acquaintance with familiar ones.
- All things in the natural world and pray for the many projects being undertaken to protect our trees, plants and all living creatures.

Please pray for:

- Communities around the world hit by disaster and families trying to rebuild their lives and overcome poverty.
- The Ukraine peace talks between EU leaders and President Trump and the Trump-Putin summit; pray for a just and lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine and, following the EU warning that Ukraine's borders should not be redrawn by force, for the people of Ukraine to have the freedom to decide their future.
- The UK and Europe coping with heatwaves and significant water shortfalls, and for areas experiencing wildfires on extremely dry grass and shrubland.
- Sensible pet ownership in this hot weather, making sure dogs are walked in the cooler part of the day and that all pets are kept in the shade and protected from heatstroke.
- Our young people as they receive their exam results this month and have to make decisions on their futures.
- Our Church family, especially all who are struggling; and for Edith, Pat, Alice, Jill, Sandra, Brenda, Elizabeth, Carol, Di, Ray, Percy, Paul and Brian W; and for Meaghan, Alan and Alison.

**You may like to use this prayer during the week:**

***Lord of times and seasons, pour out your restoring, renewing grace on me, and bring me to a place of flourishing, whatever my circumstances may be. Amen.***